



May 12, 2006

Dear Friends:

This week the Republican Congress passed a \$70 billion tax cut overwhelmingly benefiting wealthy investors. The legislation extends tax breaks for corporate dividends and capital gains. The entire cost of this tax cut – all \$70 billion – is unpaid for and will be added to the federal budget deficit. The impact of this Republican tax cut on Minnesota is that the top 2% of taxpayers will receive 68% of the benefit, while the 1.57 million Minnesota taxpayers earning \$50,000 or less will receive an average of \$20 in benefit. I joined 181 Democrats in opposing this deficit busting tax giveaway.

Yesterday, *USA Today* reported that the National Security Agency (NSA) has established a tracking system to secretly keep records of telephone calls made by American citizens. Under the guise of tracking operatives and contacts of al Qaeda, the NSA has compiled the “largest database ever assembled in the world,” instituting wanton data mining of call logs made in the U.S. This unprecedented invasion into the privacy of law abiding citizens is disturbing and likely illegal. I have joined members of the House Intelligence and Judiciary Committees as a co-sponsor of the *LISTEN* Act (Lawful Intelligence and Surveillance of Terrorists in an Emergency by NSA), which requires any attempt to eavesdrop or monitor the calls of Americans to be conducted in accordance with existing federal laws. I have also signed on to a letter to President Bush [calling for the appointment of a Special Counsel to investigate all domestic surveillance programs conducted by the NSA.](#)

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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